



*Précoce de Tours.*

XXXIV.

PRÉCOCE DE TOURS.

The Plum which is now delineated, we have selected as the best *early* variety at present cultivated. The character of its fruit in some respects does not correspond with the description given by DU HAMEL of the *Précoce de Tours*; but the variation observable in plums, arising from difference of soil and exposure, is so great, that it may nevertheless be considered the same variety. Tree vigorous and fertile; young shoots strong, of a dark purplish brown. Leaves from 3 to 4 inches long, finely serrated; petiole from 1 to 1½ inch long, tinted with red at the base. Fruit rather small, oval, slightly cleft. Skin dark purple, covered with fine blue meal. Flesh dull greenish yellow, tender, juicy, of very agreeable flavour. Stone small, rugged, and irregular in form, separating clearly from the flesh when fully ripe.

This variety ripens in July. The Specimen was obtained from a *west* wall in the Royal Garden at HAMPTON COURT; where it seldom fails to produce fruit in great perfection and abundance.